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6 July 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Meeting of SAMACC Subcommittee  
on Psychological Warfare

1. The SAMACC Subcommittee on Psychological Warfare met at 1000 today in Mr. Block's office with the following members present:

Chairman - Mr. Ralph Block	- State Department
Comdr. David Knoll	- Navy Department
Col. Clyde Rich	- Air Force
Col. William Mottson	- Army Department
[REDACTED]	- CIA

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2. Mr. Block read excerpts from a magazine article regarding a report of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and also parts of an OIC paper of 1946, both bearing on the subject of dissemination of information. In response to Colonel Rich's inquiry, Mr. Block stated that the OIC paper, suggesting the adoption of certain policies, had never been approved.

3. Again, Commander Knoll substantiated his viewpoint as stated at the meeting last week, and the rest of the Subcommittee members were in apparent full agreement with him, that the Subcommittee was now developing a policy statement for use in peace or war. I asked if this was in keeping with the charter of the Subcommittee, and there was no doubt in the mind of Commander Knoll or the others that we were set up to develop something which would operate in peace and be changed or augmented for use in time of war.

4. The Subcommittee then indulged in quite a philosophical discussion on "propaganda", making frequent reference to the fact that the Department of State has a somewhat contradictory policy to the one we are attempting to develop. For example, on 26 May 1948, Charles E. Bohlen, Counselor, Department of State, in delivering an address at the University of Arizona, observed, "Propaganda means playing fast and loose with the truth as a means of confusing and not enlightening public opinion." Other parts of his talk showed a lack of sympathy toward controlling the dissemination of information in such a manner as to look upon it as a weapon for the protection of liberties of the people of the United States.

OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

5. The discussions of today led to the emanation of a new proposed statement of the problem, viz., "To Determine a National Policy for the Dissemination of Truth and Information by United States Government Agencies."

6. Colonel Rich mentioned informally that he had met with the NSC 4 Interdepartmental Coordinating Staff last week and that he had told them things that were not too complimentary. However, he did not inform them about any of our Subcommittee work. I countered with the observation that we should not be too critical of Mr. Ochsner's group since we ourselves had not been too productive. To some extent, his observation quieted the criticism.

7. Again many caustic remarks were made about Mr. George Allen and the State Department organization under him. When these statements were made, I turned to Mr. Block and asked him if he did not work for Mr. Allen, and he answered, "Yes, but every Subcommittee member is free to express his own thoughts." I told the Subcommittee members that I had been well impressed by what I had heard and seen of Mr. Allen and that I was fully aware that tremendous demands were being made upon his time and energies since he came into the Department from the Middle East. These comments did not quell the adverse views about Mr. Allen and his activities.

8. Before closing the meeting, Mr. Block casually mentioned an item which may be of prime interest to CIA. He told us that a State Department official had come to him telling him that he was making a survey of the readiness of the Foreign Service for war. The person who came to Mr. Block said that he had seen the recent National Security Council proclamation contained in NSC 10 and that this was the basis for the work he was doing. Mr. Block himself had not seen NSC 10, and he said that he was going to inquire further into how the other person had seen it. Perhaps from the security standpoint, it might be a mistake for the National Security Council to check into the dissemination within the Departments of such documents as NSC 10.

MEMBER, ICAPS

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